

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

ACDA-19 AID-20 PC-15 SR-02 ORM-03 EB-11 TRSE-00 A-01

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PFOR

SUBJECT: CHILEAN DEVELOPMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 21.

REF: STATE 184122

FYI FOR AMBASSADOR

1. TEN DAYS AFTER MILITARY TAKEOVER, SITUATION IN SANTIAGO
AND PROVINCES IS REPORTED TO BE CALM AND RETURNING TO MORE
NORMAL CONDITIONS. MILITARY ASSERTION THAT COUNTRY IS
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UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL SEEMS BORNE OUT BY AVAILABLE INFOR-

MATION. CASUALTY ESTIMATES CONTINUE TO VARY WIDELY. JUNTA HAS LISTED ONLY 115 DEAD; UNOFFICIAL REPORTS CONTENT TOLL MUCH HIGHER. JUNTA ACKNOWLEDGES HAVING DETAINED FOR INTERROGATION SOME 5,200 PERSONS UNDER SUSPICION OF ANTI-MILITARY SUBVERSION. MANY BELONG TO LARGE LATIN AMERICAN EXILE COMMUNITY. AUTHORITIES HAVE ASSURED THAT FOUR AMERICANS UNDER DETENTION WILL BE RELEASED SEPTEMBER 21.

2. JUNTA HAS DECLARED ITS ACTIONS WERE PREEMPTIVE AND HAS ANNOUNCED THAT "EVIDENCE" HAS BEEN UNCOVERED OF AN IMMINENT EXTREME LEFTIST PLOT TO PURGE THE ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT, PATRICIO AYLWIN, HAS PUBLICLY ACCEPTED THIS EXPLANATION. SYMBOLICALLY SIGNIFICANT EVENT ON SEPTEMBER 18 INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY WAS JOINT APPEAL BY THE THREE LIVING EX-PRESIDENTS, ALL ANTI-MARXIST BUT REPRESENTING DIFFERENT POLITICAL PERSUASIONS, GONZALEZ VIDELA, ALESSANDRI AND FREI. THEY JOINED JUNTA AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN PRAYER FOR NATIONAL UNITY.

3. DOMESTIC COMMERCE RETURNING TO NORMAL; FACTORIES ARE REOPENING; AND TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ARE OPERATIVE ALBEIT STRAINED. PUDAHUEL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN SANTIAGO WAS OPENED TO INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SEPT. 20 DURING NON-CURFEW HOURS. IN SANTIAGO CURFEW HAS BEEN REDUCED TO THE 2000 TO 0600 PERIOD. PRESS CENSORSHIP CONTINUES, BUT MORE PAPERS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO PUBLISH. PREVIOUS RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS HAVE BEEN RELAXED. MOST RADIO AND SOME TV STATIONS NOW PERMITTED TO RESUME NORMAL PROGRAMMING.

4. EMBASSY SANTIAGO REPORTS INCREASING AVAILABILITIES OF GASOLINE, HEATING FUEL, BREAD AND OTHER ESSENTIALS. LONGER-TERM SUPPLY SITUATION REMAINS UNCERTAIN. JUNTA HAS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER OBTAINING FINANCING FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF 80,000 TONS OF WHEAT. APPARENTLY REFLECTING SOME OPTIMISM, FREE MARKET RATE FOR DOLLAR FELL FROM 2500 ESCUDOS (PRE-SEPT. 11) TO AROUND 1700 CURRENTLY, AND LONG-DORMANT STOCK EXCHANGE HAS SUDDENLY COME ALIVE. UNVEILING OF NEW ECONOMIC POLICY HAS BEEN PROMISED SHORTLY. INDICATIONS ARE THAT JUNTA WILL SEEK ENCOURAGE PRIVATE

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SECTOR. UNCONFIRMED REUTERS REPORT QUOTES UNNAMED OFFICIALS PROMISING OPEN MAJOR COPPER MINES TO PRIVATE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INVESTORS.

5. BY OUR COUNT, SOME TWENTY-ONE GOVERNMENTS ARE NOW REPORTED TO HAVE RECOGNIZED OR OTHERWISE INDICATED THEY WILL HAVE RELATIONS WITH NEW AUTHORITIES: BRAZIL, PARAGUAY, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA,

PORTUGAL, ARGENTINE, DENMARK, FRANCE, PERU, URUGUAY,
AUSTRIA, UGANDA, SOUTH KOREA, SOUTH VIETNAM, WEST GERMANY,
VATICAN, GREECE, MALTA AND U.K. STATUS OF YUGOSLAVIA,
MEXICO AND HONDURAS UNCLEAR. WE HAVE NOT YET REPLIED TO
JUNTA'S CIRCULAR NOTE. JUNTA HAS FORMALLY SEVERED RELA-
TIONS WITH CUBA AND NORTH KOREA, WHILE SOVIETS AND EAST
GERMANS TOOK INITIATIVE AND BROKE WITH CHILE. MILITARY
IS TAKING SOME PAINS TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF POSSIBLE
RAPPROCHEMENT WITH BOLIVIA. END FYI. KISSINGER

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